using the search query, the references including links to the documents and textual descriptions

of the links;

instructions for highlighting occurrences of the search term in the list of references;

instructions for retrieving a document corresponding to one of the references;

instructions for highlighting each occurrence of the search term in the retrieved

document; and

instructions for displaying the highlighted document to a user.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

as anticipated by Aalbersberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,946,678); and rejected claims 5, 6, and 9-12

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Aalbersberg in view of Stern et al. (U.S. Patent

No. 6,397,218).

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to improve form and

amended claims 1-9 and 12 to further define the invention. Claims 1-12 remain pending.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 with

regard to the claims as now amended.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, and 8 under 35

U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Aalbersberg. Applicants respectfully traverse the

rejection with regard to the claims as now amended.

Aalbersberg discloses a user interface for a relevance-ranking, full-text document

retrieval system that indicates to the user information about the documents found in the search

(col. 1, lines 62-65). In a results window, a document header or title is accompanied by an indicator which employs a distinctive representation to directly indicate to the user the relative contributions of the individual words from the query to each listed document (col. 2, lines 4-8).

By contrast, the present invention recited in amended claim 1, for example, includes a combination of features of a method performed by a client device for highlighting search terms in web documents distributed over the Internet. The method includes generating a search query including a search term; receiving a list of one or more links to web documents distributed over the Internet in response to the search query; receiving selection of one of the links; retrieving a web document corresponding to the selected link from the Internet; and highlighting the search term in the retrieved web document.

A proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that a single reference teach every aspect of the claimed invention either expressly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. See M.P.E.P. § 2131. Aalbersberg does not disclose every feature recited in claim 1. For example, Aalbersberg does not disclose or suggest retrieving a web document corresponding to a selected link from the Internet. Instead, Aalbersberg discloses documents in a document base that can be stored on disk or accessed via a bulletin board or other commercial source (col. 6, lines 51-53).

Aalbersberg does not disclose that the documents are web documents or that a web document corresponding to a selected link is retrieved from the Internet. Instead, Aalbersberg discloses that:

> The user can then select a result item from the results list by creating a requests data structure 76 and in a known manner the full text of the selected document is displayed in the viewer window 62.

(col. 8, lines 17-20). Nowhere in this section, or elsewhere, does <u>Aalbersberg</u> disclose retrieving a web document from the Internet, as recited in amended claim 1.

Because <u>Aalbersberg</u> does not disclose retrieving a web document from the Internet, <u>Aalbersberg</u> cannot be relied upon for disclosing highlighting the search term in the retrieved web document, as also recited in amended claim 1.

<u>Aalbersberg</u> also does not disclose receiving a list of one or more links to web documents distributed over the Internet in response to the search query. Instead, <u>Aalbersberg</u> discloses displaying search results that include the headings or titles of documents in the order of importance in a results window (col. 5, lines 45-49). The Examiner admitted that <u>Aalbersberg</u> does not disclose "links " (Office Action, page 4), as recited in amended claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by <u>Aalbersberg</u>. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, not anticipated by <u>Aalbersberg</u> for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 1.

Independent claim 7 recites a combination of features of a system for highlighting search terms in documents remotely distributed over a network to aid in the determination of relevance of the documents. The system includes means for generating a search query including one or more search terms; means for receiving a list of one or more references to documents in the network in response to the search query; means for highlighting one or more occurrences of the one or more search terms in the list of one or more references; means for receiving selection of one of the one or more references; means for retrieving a document corresponding to the selected reference; and means for highlighting the one or more search terms in the retrieved document.

<u>Aalbersberg</u> does not disclose each of the features recited in amended claim 7. For

example, Aalbersberg does not disclose or suggest means for highlighting one or more

occurrences of the one or more search terms in the list of one or more references. As shown in

Fig. 4, Aalbersberg does not disclose highlighting any terms in the list of titles/headers in any

manner.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 7 is not anticipated by

Aalbersberg.

Independent claim 8 recites features similar to those described above with regard to claim

1. Claim 8 is, therefore, not anticipated by Aalbersberg for reasons similar to those given with

regard to claim 1.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 6, and 9-12 under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Aalbersberg in view of Stern et al. Applicants

respectfully traverse the rejection with regard to the claims as now amended.

Stern et al. discloses a method for searching for data that includes hyperlinked pages by

receiving an initial set of network addresses for pages in the data network, receiving a non-

negative integer N that specifies a chain length, receiving a set of search arguments that make up

the search criteria, and performing a search such that all pages linked to the initial set of

addresses by a chain of distance less than or equal to N are examined for compliance with the

search criteria and all pages meeting the criteria are returned as successful objects of the search

(col. 2, lines 35-45).

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1. The disclosure of Stern et al. fails to cure the

deficiencies in the disclosure of Aalbersberg described above with regard to claim 1. Claims 5

and 6 are, therefore, patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any

reasonable combination, for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 are further patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al. for reasons of their own.

For example, amended claim 5 recites that highlighting the search term includes intercepting the web document and highlighting one or more occurrences of the search term in the web document. Neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests "intercepting the web document," as recited in claim 5. For these additional reasons, Applicants submit that claim 5 is patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al.

Independent claim 9 recites features similar to those described above with regard to claim 1. The disclosure of Stern et al. fails to cure the deficiencies in the disclosure of Aalbersberg described above with regard to claim 1. Claim 9 is, therefore, patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for reasons similar to those given with regard to claim 1.

Independent claim 10 recites a combination of features of a computer-readable medium that stores instructions executable by at least one processor. The computer-readable medium includes a browser configured to generate a search query that includes a search term, receive a list of one or more references to documents distributed over a network in response to the search query, receive selection of one or more of the references, and retrieve one or more documents corresponding to the selected one or more references; and a browser assistant configured to intercept the one or more documents, highlight the search term in the one or more documents, and present the one or more documents, with the highlighted search term, to a user.

Neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable

combination, discloses or suggests these features. For example, neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al. discloses or suggests a browser assistant that intercepts one or more documents, highlights the search term in the one or more documents, and presents the one or more documents, with the highlighted search term, to a user, as recited in claim 10. The Examiner alleged that Aalbersberg discloses a browser assistant and cited FTR process 3 of Figs. 6 and 7 for support (Office Action, page 7). The Examiner also cited column 8, lines 21-25, as disclosing the claimed browser assistant (Office Action, page 7). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Aalbersberg defines FTR as an abbreviation for any known "full-text retrieval engine" which can be stored as software in memory 13 or accessed via a network (col. 6, lines 48-51). In other words, FTR is a search engine that calculates similarity between a query and documents in a document base (col. 7, lines 52-54). FTR is not a browser assistant, as recited in claim 10.

At column 8, lines 21-25, Aalbersberg discloses:

In the viewer window 52, the system using viewer data 78 colors each document word associated with a query term with the color uniquely associated with the query term using any known process represented by block FTR process 3 67.

Nowhere in this section, or elsewhere, does Aalbersberg disclose a browser assistant that intercepts one or more documents retrieved by a browser to highlight a search term in the one or more documents, as recited in claim 10. The disclosure of Stern et al. provides nothing to cure these deficiencies in the disclosure of Aalbersberg.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 10 is patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and is, therefore, patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 10.

Independent claim 12 recites a combination of features of a web browser. The web browser includes instructions for obtaining a search term; instructions for generating a search query from the search term; instructions for obtaining a list of references to documents distributed over a network using the search query, the references including links to the documents and textual descriptions of the links; instructions for highlighting occurrences of the search term in the list of references; instructions for retrieving a document corresponding to one of the references; instructions for highlighting each occurrence of the search term in the retrieved document; and instructions for displaying the highlighted document to a user.

Neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests these features. For example, neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al. discloses or suggests instructions for obtaining a list of references to documents distributed over a network using the search query, where the references include links to the documents and textual descriptions of the links. The Examiner admitted that Aalbersberg does not disclose links to documents, but relied upon Stern et al. for allegedly disclosing this feature (Office Action, page 4). Neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al., however, disclose that the references also include textual descriptions of the links, as currently recited in claim 12.

Further, neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al. discloses or suggests highlighting occurrences of the search term in the list of references. As shown in Fig. 4, Aalbersberg does not disclose highlighting any terms in the list of titles/headers in any manner. Stern et al. does not disclose the act of highlighting.
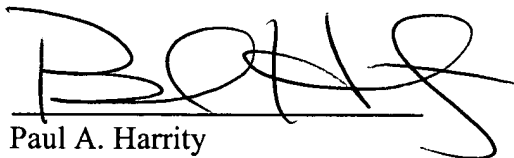
For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 12 is patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the

Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of pending claims 1-12.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 35 C.F.R. 1.136 is

hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess

fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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<u>**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**</u>

<u>IN THE SPECIFICATION</u>:

The specification has been amended as follows:

The paragraph beginning at page 17, line 13, has been amended as follows:

While the foregoing acts have been described as being performed by the server [720]

<u>920</u>, the acts may be performed by one of the servers [730] <u>930</u> in other implementations

consistent with the present invention.

<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1.   (Amended) A method performed by a client device for highlighting search terms

in <u>web</u> documents distributed over [a network] <u>the Internet</u>, comprising:

generating a search query including a search term;

receiving a list of one or more [references] <u>links</u> to <u>web</u> documents [in the network]

<u>distributed over the Internet</u> in response to the search query;

receiving selection of one of the [references] <u>links</u>;

retrieving a <u>web</u> document corresponding to the selected [reference] <u>link from the</u>

<u>Internet</u>; and

highlighting the search term in the retrieved <u>web</u> document.

2.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the highlighting includes:

automatically searching the retrieved <u>web</u> document to locate each occurrence of the

search term, and

for each occurrence of the search term, changing a characteristic of the search term in the

retrieved <u>web</u> document.

3.   (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the changing includes:

changing at least one of a color, font, style, effect, and size of the search term in the

retrieved <u>web</u> document.

4.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing the retrieved <u>web</u> document with the highlighted search term to a user.

5.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [references include links to

documents in the network] <u>highlighting the search term includes:</u>

<u>intercepting the web document, and</u>

<u>highlighting one or more occurrences of the search term in the web document.</u>

6.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating includes:

sending the search query to one of a search engine and a web directory to obtain the list

of one or more [references] <u>links</u>.

7.   (Amended) A system for highlighting search terms in documents remotely

distributed over a network to aid in the determination of relevance of the documents, comprising:

means for generating a search query including one or more search terms;

means for receiving a list of one or more references to documents in the network in response to the search query;

means for highlighting one or more occurrences of the one or more search terms in the list of one or more references;

means for receiving selection of one of the one or more references;

means for retrieving a document corresponding to the selected reference; and

means for highlighting the one or more search terms in the retrieved document.

8.   (Amended) A client device that highlights search terms in web documents remotely distributed over [a network] the Internet to aid in the determination of relevance of the web documents, comprising:

a memory configured to store instructions; and

a processor configured to execute the instructions in the memory to generate a search query that includes [a] one or more search [term] terms, obtain a list of one or more [references] links to web documents [in the network] distributed over the Internet using the search query, obtain selection of one of the [references] links, [retrieve a document] download a web document corresponding to the selected [reference] link from the Internet, and highlight the one or more search [term] terms in the [retrieved document] downloaded web document.

9.   (Amended) A browser assistant that interacts with a browser on a client device, comprising:

instructions for generating a search query including a search term;

instructions for obtaining a list of one or more links to web documents distributed over [a network] the Internet using the search query;

instructions for obtaining selection of one of the links;

instructions for retrieving a web document corresponding to the selected link from the Internet; and

instructions for highlighting the search term in the retrieved web document.

12.   (Amended) A web browser, comprising:

instructions for obtaining a search term;

instructions for generating a search query from the search term;

instructions for obtaining a list of [one or more] references to documents distributed over a network using the search query, the references including links to the documents and textual descriptions of the links;

instructions for highlighting occurrences of the search term in the list of references;

instructions for retrieving a document corresponding to one of the [one or more] references;

instructions for highlighting each occurrence of the search term in the retrieved document; and

instructions for displaying the highlighted document to a user.